Message Text

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2.1

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

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R 302050Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 625

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POUCHED ALL CONSULATE IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJ: CLC PREPARING NATION-WIDE WORK STOPPAGE

REF: OTTAWA 2877

1. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS 30-MEMBER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT JULY 29 MEETING AUTHORIZED 10-MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT RECENTLY GRANTED CONVENTION MANDATE TO CALL NATION-WIDE GENERAL STRIKE IN PROTEST AGAINST WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS. LACK OF PROGRESS DURING TWO COG-CLC DISCUSSIONS ON GREATER ROLE FOR LABOR IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DECISION MAKING PROCESS (SEE REFTEL) PLAYED SECONDARY ROLE IN BRINGING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MAJORITY TO MOVE ONE STEP CLOSER TO CALLING ONE-DAY NATIONAL WORK STOPPAGE. JUDGING BY CONCERSATIONS LABATT HAD WITH SEVERAL CLC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS FINAL DECISION ON WORK STOPPAGE WHICH WILL BE CALLED "DAY OF PROTEST" WILL NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL AFTER THIRD GOC-CLC MEETING ON AUGUST 6. MID-OCTOBER, COINCIDING WITH FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM, IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AS BEING FAR ENOUGH IN FUTURE TO ORGANIZE SUCH MASSIVE UNDERTAKING AS 24-HOUR WORK STOPPAGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN ATTEMPTED PREVIOUSLY.

- 2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MODERATE ELEMENTS WITHIN CLC
 LED BY PRESIDENT MORRIS WERE ABLE TO CONVINCE
 RADICAL AFFILIATES SUCH AS CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC
 EMPLOYEES TO AVOID LONGER STRIKE WHICH WOULD HAVE
 BEEN TANTAMOUNT TO INSURRECTION, ORGANIZED LABOR HAS
 NOW OPTED FOR A LIMITED FORM OF CONFRONTATION WITH
 GOC. THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION THAT IT
 WILL END THE ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM IN A TIME FRAME
 ACCEPTABLE TO LABOR NOR IS IT PREPARED TO GRANT FULL RANGE OF
 CLC DEMANDS FOR POWER SHARING AS CALLED FOR IN LABOR'S
 MANIFESTO.
- 3. THUS A TEST OF STRENGTH IN WHICH LABOR HOPES TO DEMONSTRATE WIDESPREAD WORKER OPPOSITION TO GOC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES IS DEFINITELY ON THE HORIZON. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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